

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A dry toner for developing electrostatic images, comprising a colorant and a binder resin,

wherein said binder resin comprises a copolymer resin having

(A) a polyol resin moiety having a main chain of polyoxyalkylene and obtained by reaction of

(a) an epoxy resin,

(b) a dihydric phenol, and

(c) an alkylene oxide adduct of a dihydric phenol or a glycidyl ether thereof; and

(B) a polyester resin moiety obtained by reacting an alkylene oxide adduct of a dihydric phenol or a glycidyl ether thereof with a polycarboxylic acid,

wherein the weight ratio of said epoxy resin of said polyol resin moiety to said polyester resin moiety is 95:5 to 60:40,

wherein said epoxy resin of said ~~epoxy~~ polyol resin moiety includes at least two ~~kinds~~ of bisphenol epoxy resins having different number-average molecular weights, and wherein said binder resin has an acid value of not greater than 5.

Claim 2 (Original): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said binder resin has an epoxy value of at least 20,000.

Claim 3 (Original): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said binder resin has an acid value of not greater than 1.

Claim 4 (Original): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polycarboxylic acid of said polyester resin moiety is a dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said epoxy resin of said polyol epoxy resin moiety is a mixture of a lower molecular weight epoxy resin having a number-average molecular weight of 360 to 2,000 and a higher molecular weight epoxy resin having a number-average molecular weight of 3,000 to 10,000.

Claim 6 (Original): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polyester resin moiety has a number-average molecular weight of 500 to 2,000.

Claim 7 (Original): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said copolymer resin is obtained by reaction of

- (a) an epoxy resin,
- (b) a dihydric phenol,
- (c) an alkylene oxide adduct of a dihydric phenol or a glycidyl ether thereof,
- (d) a polyester resin obtained by reacting an alkylene oxide adduct of a dihydric phenol or a glycidyl ether thereof with a polycarboxylic acid, and
- (e) a monohydric phenol or a monocarboxylic acid.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~A full~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus, comprising:

a photoconductor, and

a developing unit, wherein said developing unit comprises a toner vessel containing a
the dry toner according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (New): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the copolymer resin has a softening point of 100 to 130°C.

Claim 10 (New): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein (a), (b) and (c) are present in an (a):(b):(c) weight ratio of 25-70 : 10-40 : 15-40.

Claim 11 (New) A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the copolymer resin has a Tg of 50 to 70°C.

Claim 12 (New): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the copolymer resin has a Tg of 55 to 70°C.

Claim 13 (New): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a releasing agent having a softening point of 70 to 100°C.

Claim 14 (New): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a releasing agent in an amount of 1 to 6% by weight based on the total weight of the toner.

Claim 15 (New): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colorant is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.

Claim 16 (New): A dry toner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a charge controlling agent.

Claim 17 (New): A two component developer, comprising the dry toner as claimed in claim 1 and a carrier.

Claim 18 (New): A two component developer as claimed in claim 17, wherein the toner is present in an amount of 0.5 to 6.0 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the carrier.

Claim 19 (New): A two component developer as claimed in claim 17, wherein the carrier is in the form of particles coated with a resin.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct the trademarks. Support is found in the specification as originally filed.

Both the specification and Claim 1 have been amended to correct an obvious typographical error in the term, "epoxy resin of said ~~epoxy~~ polyol resin moiety", which amendment finds support in the claim as originally filed. See also the specification at page 2, lines 30ff of the specification. The specification and Claim 1 have also been amended to delete the objectionable term, "kinds of" referring to the two bisphenol epoxy resins having different number-average molecular weights. Support for the amendment is found in the claim as originally filed.

Claim 5 has been similarly amended.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify the apparatus and also the relationship between the the apparatus and the toner vessel, consistent with the specification. See, e.g., Figure 1 and the accompanying discussions on pages 4 and 17-18.

New Claims 9-19 have been added, and these are drawn to narrower and more preferred embodiments of the invention.

Claim 9 finds support at the last paragraph on page 6 of the specification.

Claim 10 finds support at the first paragraph on page 8 of the specification.

Claims 11-12 find support at page 9, lines 16-21 of the specification.

Claims 13-14 find support at page 9, line 24 to page 10, line 19 of the specification.

Claim 15 finds support at page 11, lines 19-21 of the specification.

Claim 16 finds support at page 11, lines 22ff of the specification.

Claims 17-19 find support at page 12, line 35 to page 13, line 15 of the specification.

No new matter is believed to be added by entry of the amendments. Entry and favorable consideration are therefore kindly requested. Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1-19 will be active and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable indication of same is kindly requested.